

## SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON MARTYN'S UNIVERSAL CONCHOLOGIST.

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The publication of an account<sup>a</sup> of Martyn and his famous work on the shells of the South Seas by me in 1905, had the hoped-for effect, in that it was the means of bringing out supplementary information which enables me to supply data missing at the date of the first paper and to confirm conclusions which in it were arrived at by circumstantial evidence. Next to the positive determination that the first 80 plates were published in 1784, the most important data relate to the correction of the so-called reprint issued by Chenu of the tables for the second 80 plates, which turns out to be entirely unreliable. The new information comes from widely scattered sources.

The copy containing the first 80 plates, belonging to the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, is about the same size as the National Museum copy (12 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches) and is of the same date. It contains a publisher's circular offering the work separately printed on an octavo sheet dated 1787, and a manuscript note<sup>b</sup> stating that the Duke of York's copy sold for 10 guineas. The plates and tables agree with those of the Museum copy.

The second copy examined was sent from South Dakota by a collector who sold it to Mr. John B. Henderson, jr., of Washington, and likewise consisted of 80 plates elegantly bound. This was evidently one of the "select copies" of the first issue, as it is on folio sheets (16 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches), and is dated after the first engraved title, "1784," and after the second engraved title has "MDCCLXXXIV | Tomkins scripsit | Ellis sc." in small letters. This plate and the dedication are larger than those in the quarto edition and printed from a different engraved plate, although the wording is the same as in the quarto copies. There are no plates of medals. The text is worded the same

<sup>a</sup>Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXIX, 1905, No. 1425, pp. 415-432.

<sup>b</sup>Taken from an account of the sale in the London Times, May 24, 1827.

as in the later issues, for the most part, but slightly differently distributed. On page 8, paragraph 2, after "South Seas," is added "comprising in all about 170 different species. The whole of which will be contained in four volumes, each volume exhibiting 40 shells or 80 figures." The later issues have only "The whole of which will be comprised in two volumes."

The Henderson copy, p. 8, footnote, asks that "correct copies of these" (i. e., drawings of unique shells for use in the work) may be sent to the author by "Christmas, 1785," in order to enrich the suite of these particular shells in this repository. This note, or a part of it, appears on page 6 of the quarto. Page 26 in the Henderson copy ends the text. Then follows the "Explanatory Table," worded as in the quarto, but engraved on a somewhat larger plate. The figures of shells follow, but, while they are the same species as in the quarto, they are in a few cases differently placed on the sheet, and the space inclosed by the neat-lines is larger.

Under the sheet of the Explanatory Table is inserted an octavo sheet of two pages, one English and one French, headed "Observations on the Explanatory Table." This sheet has not been seen in any other copy, but contains nothing of importance. It is chiefly devoted to remarks on the shells figured on plates 2, 14, 20, and 24.

The second forty plates forming "Volume II" have a copy of the 1787 circular inserted after the fly leaf, together with a note (with no headline), as follows: "As the four first volumes of this undertaking | form of themselves a distinct work and as such | may be preferred by some Persons: an additional | Title page is therefore added for such Purpose, leaving the other title page to be removed at | the Discretion of the Purchasers."

There is the same engraved title as for Volume I (first forty plates), no text, explanatory table the same as in the quarto.

The following differences are noted between the Henderson copy of the plates and the plates of the quarto:

Plate 43 has two views of shell. There is only one view in the quarto.

Plates 57 and 59; same remark.

Plates 61 and 63, the figures are side by side. In the quarto (owing to the smaller page!) they are placed diagonally.

All the other plates, except in regard to the neat-line, agree exactly with those of the quarto.

Mr. Charles Hedley, of the Australian Museum, informed me that they possess a complete copy with all the plates and also copies of the publisher's circular in octavo form, with French and English text for the issues of 1784 and 1786. These circulars are now known for 1784, 1786, and 1787. Mr. Hedley, with the concurrence of the Museum authorities, was kind enough to send me photographs of the circulars and also of the "Explanatory Tables" belonging to Volumes III and

IV, otherwise the third and fourth batches of 40 plates each. I have already called attention to the confusion caused by the publisher sometimes referring to 40 and at other times to 80 plates as a volume. The explanatory tables are marked Vol. I, II, III, and IV, respectively. I reproduce the English page of the earliest prospectus known to me, that dated 1784.

The words "This day is published" should not be taken literally, since they occur on each of the circulars. They simply mean that the books are on sale at the time of distribution of the circular, even when first issued earlier. The subsequent circulars differ but little in wording. They have the heading "Academy for Painting of Natural History," which is wanting on the circular of 1784.

For condition V of the 1784 circular that of 1786 has "That the subsequent volume, which is already in great part finished, shall be published some time in the spring, 1787."

In the circular of 1787, after the line "This day is published," is inserted "(in two volumes compleat);" the paragraph numbered V in 1786 is omitted, and paragraph VI becomes V, while there is no paragraph VI.

The prices cited also vary. In 1786 the price is raised to "nine guineas each volume, in a rich extra binding; and ten guineas and a half in morocco. Unbound, seven guineas and a half. An edition of the above Work, elegantly bound in small Folio, may be had at five guineas and a half each volume." The same prices were asked in 1787.

In 1784 the author was situated at "26 King-Street, Covent-Garden," but in 1786 and 1787 the circulars place him at "16 Great Marlborough-Street."

The data above given prove conclusively that the first eighty plates appeared in 1784, the third forty in 1786, and the work was completed probably in the spring of 1787. Also that the date on the title-pages was changed at least twice, copies existing dated 1784, 1787, and 1789; and that a separate title-page was prepared for the first four volumes of South Sea shells when it became impossible to carry out the author's plan of issuing a general iconography.

The photographs of the "Explanatory Tables" of Volumes III and IV show such discrepancies between Chenu's "reprint" and the text it purports to represent that the suspicion arises that the original table may have been submitted to some revision and additions in a later issue; otherwise it seems impossible to account for Chenu giving in each case for these two volumes the generic name *Cardium*, when the original reads *Cochlea*, and specific names to species for which no specific name had been engraved in the compartment of the table intended to hold one.

*This Day is Published.*

VOLUME THE FIRST; OF FIGURES OF NON-DESCRIPT SHELLS,  
COLLECTED IN THE  
Several Voyages to the SOUTH SEAS, since the Year 1764.  
*DEDICATED (by Permission) to HIS MAJESTY:*

CONDITIONS.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>I. THAT the whole Work, exhibiting a complete Collection of Non-descript Shells, from the South Seas, shall be comprised in four volumes, Folio.</p> <p>II. That EIGHTY FIGURES OF SHELLS shall be given in each volume.</p> <p>III. That the more essential parts shall be executed By the Author only; and the whole By his Pupils, under his immediate direction.</p> <p>IV. That in each volume shall be given an engraved title page, and an explanatory table, (in French and English) shewing in different columns, 1<sup>st</sup>. The number referring to each figure in the order of its succession.</p> | <p>2<sup>dly</sup>. The English name and family, with an initial letter denoting the genus, or division of that family, to which the shell belongs, according to the System of the Author. 3<sup>dly</sup>. The latin name, and its degree of rarity. 4<sup>thly</sup>. Where the shell is found. And lastly, in what cabinet it is preserved.</p> <p>V. That the subsequent volumes (which are already in great part finished) shall be published at regular intervals of five months.</p> <p>VI. That the price shall be six guineas each volume, elegantly bound, or five guineas unbound.</p> |
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\* A small number of SELECT COPIES will be sold at an advance of two guineas and a half on each Volume.

The subject of the Work above proposed, seems to entitle it in a particular manner to the attention of the British Naturalist, as a monument of the several voyages to the Pacific Ocean, and of those important discoveries which will do such lasting honour to the Philosophical spirit of this nation, under the present reign, so auspicious both to the liberal arts and useful Sciences. Nor is it destitute of a more general merit, which may as powerfully recommend it to the Naturalist of every country.—The merit of Novelty: No publication on these particular shells having yet appeared. This alone might be sufficient to insure it success, as a supplement to the treatises of Lister and Others. The Author, however, takes this opportunity of intimating, that he wishes this essay rather to be considered as the first part of an undertaking much more extensive; that of illustrating the whole System of Conchology, in the same superior style of accuracy and elegance. This superiority will best appear by comparing this Publication with all others extant, in this or any other branch of Natural History. The drawings will be minutely correct, and adapted to a scale, formed on an attentive observation of the more perfect specimens in the principal cabinets of this kingdom: the engraving will consist merely of a delicate outline, as a certain guide for the relative proportions of the parts; to this the utmost skill and labour of the Painter will be added, in order to produce from the whole the full effect of that beautiful contour, rich colouring, and bold relief, which the subject so peculiarly demands, and which the art of painting alone can properly supply; while the exact and lively representation of Nature in the size, shape, mouth, extremities, convolutions, and various colours of the different shells thus exhibited, will at the same time answer every purpose of science, and in some sort render the present Work truly worthy the appellation *Of a School*, for this pleasing branch of Natural History.

\* \* *Select Copies of the above work, richly bound in Morocco, may be had, at Ten Guineas and a Half each Volume.*

Sold at THOMAS MARTYN'S, (the Author) No. 26, King-Street, Covent-Garden, London, 1764.

The following list gives Martyn's names for his Volumes III and IV. A comparison with the list in my first paper transcribed from Chenu's "reprint" will show the discrepancies. Several species have no specific name given to them. When the generic name is not engraved against the specific name but is indicated by the context it is placed in parentheses. In this and other respects the list agrees with the construction of my previous list. Specific names added by Chenu, but not in the original, are starred:

## EXPLANATORY TABLE, VOLUME III.

- PLATE 81. *Buccinum fiens*.  
 82. *Buccinum vexillum croceum*.  
 83. *Buccinum coronatum*.  
 84. *Buccinum lineatum*.  
 85. *Buccinum tessellatum*.  
 86. *Buccinum nux-odorata*.  
 87. *Buccinum incisum*.  
 88. *Buccinum costatum*.  
 89. *Buccinum scabrum*.  
 90. {*Buccinum turris picta*.  
 {*Buccinum turris clavata*.  
 91. {*Buccinum galea variata*.  
 {*Buccinum galea ferrea*.  
 92. {*Buccinum ornatum*.  
 {*Buccinum luteolum*.  
 93. {*Buccinum vittatum*.  
 {*Buccinum varium*.  
 94. {*Buccinum coelatum*.  
 {*Buccinum sinuatum* (omitted by Chenu).  
 95. {*Bulla circulata*.  
 {*Bulla villosa*.  
 96. *Cyprea subfuscula*.  
 97. *Clava tessellata*.  
 98. {*Clava nigra*.  
 {*Clava fusca*.  
 99. (*Patella*) *scapula*.  
 100. *Patella testudineata*.  
 101. (*Patella*) *morionis-pileus*.  
 102. (*Patella*) *umbella*.  
 103. {*Mitra rugata*.  
 {*Mitra denticulata*.  
 104. {*Mitra staminea*.  
 {*Mitra fasciata*.  
 105. {*Mitra limosa*.  
 {*Mitra vermiculata*.  
 106. (*Nerita*) *nux-castanea*.  
 107. *Nerita acupictus*.  
 108. *Nerita diversicolor*.  
 109. {*Nerita pellis-aminiana*.  
 {*Nerita litteris Hebraicis notatus* (hebraea\*). See note *a*, page 196.

- PLATE 110. {*Nerita stellatus*.  
 {*Nerita fasciatus*.  
 111. {*Oliva corticata*.  
 {*Oliva striata*.  
 112. {*Oliva interpuncta*.  
 {*Oliva fenestrata*.  
 113. {*Purpura scabra*.  
 {*Purpura senticosa*.  
 114. {*Purpura tubulata*.  
 {*Purpura ramosa*.  
 115. *Limax aureus*.  
 116. (*Limax*) *tiara*.  
 117. (*Limax*) *lampas*.  
 118. *Limax vittatus*.  
 119. *Limax scaber*.  
 120. *Limax viperinus* (*serpens*\* *Chenu*).

## EXPLANATORY TABLE, VOLUME IV.

- PLATE 121. {*Limax spicatus*.  
 {(*Limax*) *fusca spicatus*.  
 {(*Limax*, *nigra spicatus* (omitted by *Chenu*).  
 122. (*Limax*) *flammeus*.  
 123. (*Limax*) *scutulatus*.  
 124. *Trochus petrosus*.  
 125. {(*Voluta*) *fagina*.  
 {(*Voluta*) *cosmographicus*.  
 126. (*Voluta*) *reticulata*.  
 127. {(*Voluta*) *undata*.  
 {(*Voluta*) *interpuncta*.  
 128. (*Voluta*) ——— (*ducis-navalis*\*).  
 129. {*Voluta scutulata*.  
 {(*Voluta*) *zonaria*.  
 130. {*Cochlea bicolor*.  
 {(*Cochlea*) *nexilis*.  
 131. {(*Cochlea*) *tigrina*.  
 {(*Cochlea*) *aquosa*.  
 132. {(*Cochlea*) *crista-galli*.  
 {(*Cochlea*) *histris*.  
 133. {*Cochlea implexa*.  
 {(*Cochlea*) *purpurea*.  
 134. (*Cochlea*) *triangularis*.  
 135. {(*Cochlea*) *coocinea*.  
 {(*Cochlea*) *dentrachates*.  
 136. {*Cochlea nimbata*.  
 {(*Cochlea*) *marmorata*.  
 137. {(*Cochlea*) *cretata*.<sup>a</sup>  
 {(*Cochlea*) *arborescens*.  
 138. {(*Cochlea*) *rusa*.<sup>b</sup>  
 {(*Cochlea*) *palatam*.  
 139. {*Cochlea undata*.  
 {(*Cochlea*) *fumosa*.

<sup>a</sup> Marked with chalk. Martyn's English is "Figured cockle."

<sup>b</sup> Red or rosy.

- PLATE 140. (*Cochlea*) *nebulosa*.  
 141. (*Cochlea*) *castrensis*.  
 142. } (*Cochlea*) *virgulata*.  
       } (*Cochlea*) *inscripta*.  
 143. (*Cochlea*) ——— (*albida*\*).  
 144. (*Cochlea*) *viminea*.  
 145. } (*Cochlea*) *acupicta*.  
       } (*Cochlea*) *maculosa*.  
 146. (*Cochlea*) *columbina*.  
 147. (*Cochlea*) *striata*.  
 148. (*Cochlea*) *gilva*.  
 149. (*Cochlea*) *violacea*.  
 150. (*Cochlea*) *personata*.  
 151. } *Musc(ulus)* *fuseus*.  
       } (*Musculus*) *viridis*.  
 152. } (*Musculus*) *viridis undatus*.  
       } (*Musculus*) *fuseus undatus*.  
 153. } *Pecten* *rubidus*.  
       } (*Pecten*) *bombycinus*.  
 154. *Ostria* *echinata*.  
 155. (*Ostria*) *spinosa*.  
 156. } *Tellina* *cinnamar*.  
       } (*Tellina*) *subrubicunda*.  
 157. } (*Tellina*) *alba*.  
       } (*Tellina*) *rosea*.  
 158. (*Tellina*) *barbata*.  
 159. } (*Tellina*) *subrubicunda radiata*.  
       } (*Tellina*) *purpurea radiata*.  
 160. } (*Tellina*) *adumbrata*.  
       } (*Tellina*) *rubescens*.

The discrepancies between the tables as reprinted exactly above and Chenu's list are so great that it does not seem reasonable to refer them merely to carelessness. In the absence of Chenu's original or a copy of it, and from the fact that the tables as reproduced by me from the Sydney copy are marred by engravers' errors—have two species without any specific name at all, and have thirty-six species with different generic names from those cited by Chenu—I conclude that the Sydney tables are an early issue of engravings which were later corrected and completed, and that it was from one of the altered copies that Chenu's badly printed list was taken, adding a number of errors of its own.

As illustrating engraver's errors in the Sydney tables, I need only mention as misspellings such words as *coccinea* for *coccinea*, *palatum* for *palatum*, and *ostria* for *ostrea*.

Other errors of the engraver consist in reversing the order of words as indicated by the English trivial names, putting the varietal name before the specific name, as *fusca spicatus* and *nigra spicatus* for *spicatus* var. *fusca* and *spicatus* var. *nigra*. In one instance the name intended for the specific name and the descriptive phrase have changed

places in the columns, an error which seems to have been corrected in Chenu's original.<sup>a</sup>

One species and one variety are altogether omitted from Chenu's list, and the thirty-two bivalves placed in a genus *Cochlea* by Martyn, in his Volume IV, are listed by Chenu as *Cardium*, though the two *Cochlea* of Volume II remain. The four shells listed by Martyn as *Musculus* (i. e., *Modiolus* Lamarek) have the name *Mytilus* in Chenu's list. These facts point strongly toward a revision by Martyn himself of the original engravings of the tables for Volumes III and IV.

The importance of Volumes III and IV is fortunately confined to the specific nomenclature of the forms figured. Of these but a few are American. One comes from Newfoundland, one from the Straits of Magellan, and the rest of the American forms are from the West Indies. Nearly all of them had been given specific names before Martyn's time, and there are no Pacific coast species among them. Only Volumes I and II, or the first 80 plates (dating from 1784), are important for any generic synonymy. These are also the portions most frequently quoted by Bruguière, Gmelin, Lamarek, Deshayes, and other contemporary or nearly contemporaneous authors.

The present summary will enable those interested to form a correct idea of the earliest issue of Volumes III and IV (1786-87), not seen by me when I prepared my former paper on Martyn and the Universal Conchologist, and to positively confirm the priority of Martyn's names over those of Gmelin, Bruguière, and Lamarek, as indicated by that publication.

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<sup>a</sup> *Nerita hebraea*, Plate 109, second figure.